



Welcome to our School

Welcome to the 'Howe Dell' family. Our school and Nursery is an exciting, nurturing and safe place to learn where we ensure that every child feels happy and secure.

At Howe Dell, we want our children to be the best they can be which is why the child is firmly at the centre of everything that we do at school. It is well documented that a happy child will learn and combined with the other magical ingredients of excellent teaching, high-quality resources and a therapeutic approach to learning, nothing will stop children at Howe Dell being successful learners.

We encourage children to be supportive and caring towards one another. We want them to leave Howe Dell as confident, independent and resilient learners who are fully prepared and excited about the next step in their learning journey.

This prospectus is designed to give you a flavour of what Howe Dell School and Nursery is all about. We warmly welcome visits and are more than happy to answer your questions in person or at

admin@howedell.herts.sch.uk

Reach for the Stars

The educational and social landscape for our children is constantly changing. At Howe Dell, we recognise the importance of continually reviewing our practice to enable us to keep pace with these changes and subsequently ensure that our children get the very best education.

As such, we regularly ask a key question: "what is the impact of this change and will it make a positive difference for our children?" Everything we review and revise must improve our provision and align with our vision, values and aims:

Vision:

At Howe Dell, we aspire to create a cohesive community of life-long learners, who are equipped with skills and knowledge to positively impact the world.

Values and aims:

Through our bespoke and ambitious curriculum, we embed our values: kindness, growth and respect.

Kindness is the foundation of all our interactions and is modelled throughout our community.

Growth is fostered within our therapeutic ethos. Through personal development we grow resilient, curious learners both in the classroom and the wider world.

Respect is fundamental to us all. We value differences, celebrate diversity, and promote inclusivity, creating a safe and supportive community where everyone is welcome.



"Pupils at Howe Dell are welcoming and open. They are kind to visitors and considerate to each other. They are eager to learn and share their knowledge which they can express with confidence"

“Leaders in the Early
years Foundation
Stage have created an
engaging environment”

Ofsted



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) is a crucial part of a child's school life. At Howe Dell, we provide a caring and nurturing environment which enables children to learn, grow and thrive. Our curriculum begins in the Foundation Stage where children first join our journey into life long learning. Our child initiated learning allows children the freedom to explore and learn through their own natural interests. Teachers plan and organise enhancements to ensure that children are constantly learning. The adults within our setting support learning by modelling and using targeted questions. Our curriculum is vocabulary rich and this is encouraged and extended through high quality adult interactions. We offer a free flow provision between classrooms and the outdoors.



The Curriculum

We firmly believe that one size does not fit all; therefore, we provide an ambitious curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of every child. Howe Dell's curriculum is based on the current National Curriculum and is enhanced by the use of vocabulary rich, high-quality texts.

Every child's progress and attainment is formally discussed termly through an effective and robust monitoring cycle. We know each child well; by working collaboratively, we develop strengths and support them to remove any barriers to learning. When children need extra support, we provide bespoke and tailored interventions to set all children up for success.

Our curriculum, at all key stages, is taught to a very high standard with staff having strong subject knowledge and the ability to ensure that children learn and remember key knowledge, skills and vocabulary over the year and over the years.

At every stage of their time at Howe Dell, children are provided with many varied and stimulating learning opportunities from specialist internal and outdoor experiences to off-site visits and residential excursions. All of these have been meticulously planned to provide high-quality, first-hand learning experiences which compliments the wider curriculum.



“Leaders have prioritised early reading, and this is a strength”

Ofsted

“Pupils can participate in the eco-committee linked to the school buildings - they learn from this”

Ofsted



Extra Curricular Activities

Having a hugely talented staff team lends itself to providing some fantastic opportunities for purposeful activities both in and out of school. Our mission is not just to encourage academic excellence, but to introduce children to new opportunities and unlock talents that are yet to be discovered. Howe Dell offers a wide range of clubs and activities which includes a plethora of sporting, fitness, musical and curriculum-based activities.

Working in Partnership

Working in partnership with parents and carers is hugely rewarding; we work openly with parents and carers and encourage their honesty and feedback at every level.

Events such as parent consultations, 'live learning', 'meet the teacher' and class assemblies provide you as parents and carers with the opportunity to work alongside your children, to hear and see your children's progress and celebrate in their successes.

Our Parent Ambassadors work together as a network of representatives who play a vital role in fostering positive relationships between the school and parents. As a parent ambassador, they support our school values. They meet termly with leaders to discuss current school developments, initiatives and priorities. This is then fed back to fellow parents.

Howe Dell has a strong Governing Board, which is effectively involved in the strategic direction and development of the school.

We also have an active and enthusiastic parent staff association (PSA) who work tirelessly to raise funds through a variety of events. These funds have enabled the school to maintain its high-quality resources as well as offer a wide range of enrichment activities.



**“Leaders and
Governors work closely
together to carry out
school improvements”**



"Pupils at Howe Dell are welcoming and open. They are kind to visitors and considerate to each other. They are eager to learn and share their knowledge which they can express with confidence"

Ofsted

Caring for our Children

Our pastoral support systems are incredibly strong and are designed to ensure that all children are known as individuals with their personal needs being met accordingly. We use a therapeutic approach to ensure that we equip children with the necessary skills for them to be resilient, independent and happy. The school has an Inclusion hub which hosts a team of highly trained staff who support our children in a variety of ways to enable them to thrive both socially and academically. The school also has access to a team of Family Support Workers.

Howe Dell School is committed to looking after the mental health of children. A range of in-house therapeutic approaches, including Drawing and Talking and Protective Behaviours, are firmly embedded in our daily practice. The use of Protective Behaviours ensures that children know how to keep themselves safe and identify key adults at home and at school that they can talk openly with about their concerns.

As with everything we do here, any decision regarding a strategy to support your child will involve you as a parent.



“Pupils are well behaved. They understand their role in making the school community positive and safe”

Ofsted

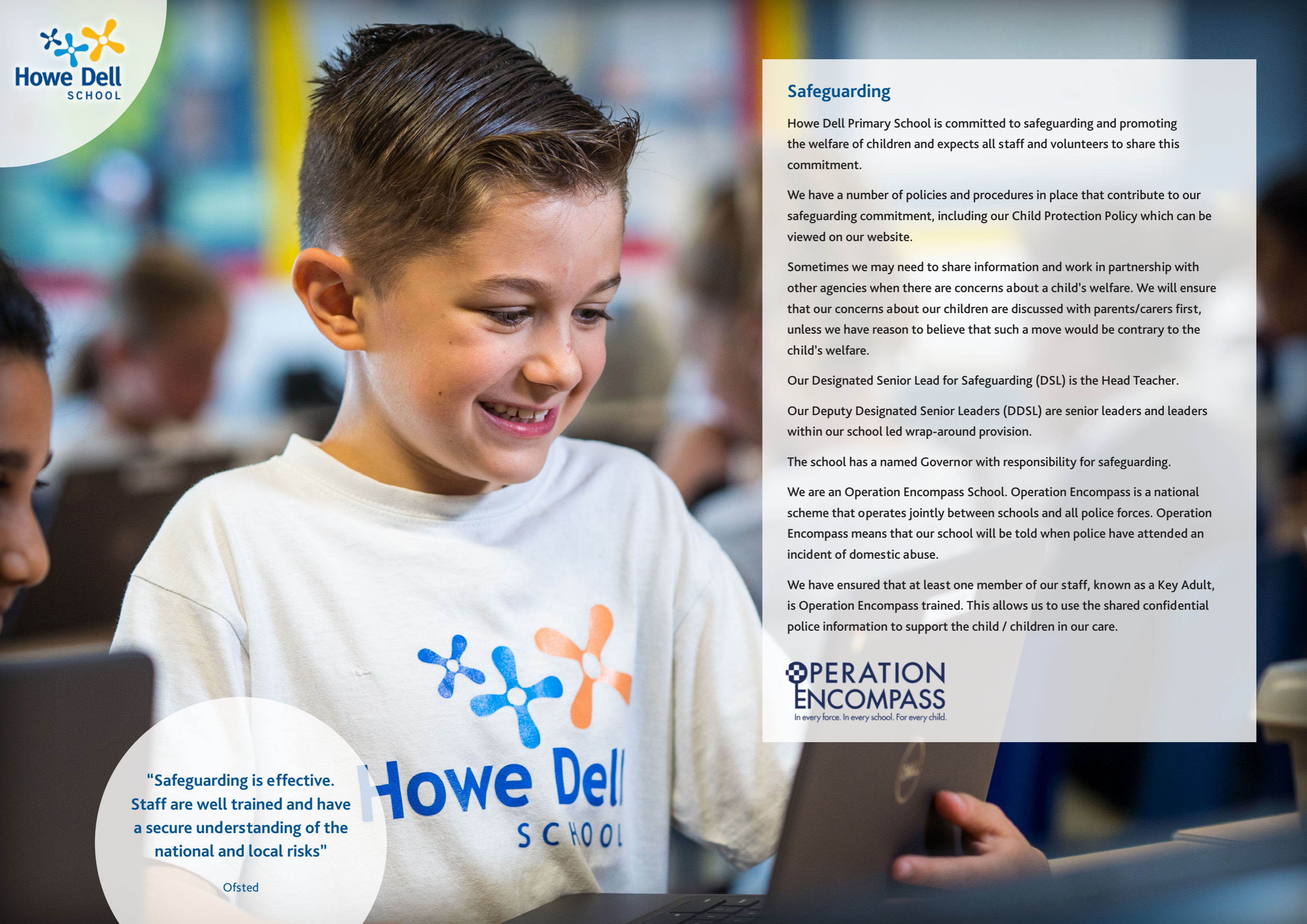
Behaviour

The school's culture is rooted in mutual respect where learners understand how their valued behaviour choices and good conduct effectively contributes to school life, the relationships with other school members and the importance this will play in their future.

Howe Dell places a high emphasis on positive behaviour. The behaviour and social development of our children is a key factor in their access to and interaction with the community, their continuing development and the quality of their lives. We manage behaviour with sensitivity and professionalism and the individual needs of the children are always taken into account. Our behaviour expectations are communicated through our Golden Expectations and these are visible throughout the school.



Howe Dell
SCHOOL



Safeguarding

Howe Dell Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Child Protection Policy which can be viewed on our website.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our children are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

Our Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding (DSL) is the Head Teacher.

Our Deputy Designated Senior Leaders (DDSL) are senior leaders and leaders within our school led wrap-around provision.

The school has a named Governor with responsibility for safeguarding.

We are an Operation Encompass School. Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces. Operation Encompass means that our school will be told when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse.

We have ensured that at least one member of our staff, known as a Key Adult, is Operation Encompass trained. This allows us to use the shared confidential police information to support the child / children in our care.



**"Safeguarding is effective.
Staff are well trained and have
a secure understanding of the
national and local risks"**

Ofsted

Photographs and Filming

While lots of parents and carers really enjoy seeing photos and films of their children's school life, we are very mindful of our duty of care towards all our pupils. We take the issue of safeguarding very seriously and this includes the use of photographic and video images.

Any photographs or films taken by parents, carers and relatives at school productions, sports days or other events are for the enjoyment of individual families. They must not be used in any way that could potentially place a child at risk. This would include publishing images in any form of print or on the internet including social networking sites. Photographic permission for events is advised before concerts, shows and invited parental events.

We understand that parents or carers may not wish their child to be photographed or videoed in this way. The photographic consent form must be completed to reflect parental choice.

Occasionally, the local press will be invited to take photographs of school events and special achievements. We like to use photographs of our children on our website, Twitter feed (X), in school documents, for parent information meetings, newsletters and on our display screens around the school. Parents are given the opportunity to give their signed consent as to whether they wish their children's photos or videos to be used in this way as part of the admissions process.



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